



SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION

MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Time: 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Meeting Location: Remote Meeting Only

1) Welcome and Introductions

Steve Bay chaired the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's (Commission) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting and called the meeting to order at 9:43 am. Introductions followed.

2) Public Comment

Walter Lamb commented on the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project (Ballona Wetlands EIR) and requested the TAC to review the Ballona Wetlands EIR and make recommendations to the Commission's Governing Board. Members responded by stating that the TAC could explore this issue if requested by the Commission's Governing Board.

3) General Business

a) Order of Agenda

There was no change to the order of the agenda.

b) Approval of Meeting Minutes

The July 17, 2019 TAC meeting minutes were approved with the correction of Eric Stein's name. Moved: Steve Bay. Seconded: John Dorsey.

c) Reports from the Chair, Subcommittees, and Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (NEP) Staff

Steve Bay reported on the December 2019 Governing Board meeting and the TAC's recommended Proposition (Prop) 50 grant funding priorities developed for the Governing Board's consideration.

Guangyu Wang introduced new Commission staff, Caitlin Gray. Wang reported on the October and December 2019 Governing Board meetings, including the approval of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)

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Finance Plan; provided updates on Prop 50 grant funding priorities for the Governing Board's consideration and on the Proposed Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); and conveyed the appreciation expressed by the Commission's Executive Committee for TAC members' contribution and dedication. Member comments followed on the amendments to the MOU.

Wang invited Tom Ford to give an update on activities carried out by The Bay Foundation to support the CCMP and Santa Monica Bay NEP Annual Work Plan. Ford provided updates on the Malibu Lagoon post-restoration monitoring program, the community-based restoration project at the Ballona Wetlands; the Santa Monica beach restoration pilot project; the living shorelines project; the kelp restoration project; and abalone restoration project. Ford introduced Karina Johnston to report on the California Estuarine Wetland Monitoring Manual and the California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) development.

Member comments followed on Ballona Wetlands restoration, next-steps for CRAM, and restored abalone species.

Ford invited Phil Markle to provide an update on the ocean acidification (OA) study by Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County and anticipated deployment of OA sensors. Member comments followed on use of models to predict depth variability and involvement of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

d) Member Comment

Mas Dojiri commented on upcoming biodiversity seminar at Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.

Eric Stein commented on Stormwater Monitoring Coalition's research prioritization updates and the California Ocean Protection Council's new project for MPAs.

4) Updates and Discussion: Bay Comprehensive Monitoring Program (CMP)

Karina Johnston provided background information on the CMP and requested TAC member input on the updated CMP's structure. Members recommended maintaining current CMP structure; updating habitats, objectives, indicators, priorities, and data gaps; and distributing a partial draft CMP for TAC's review.

5) Discussion: TAC Membership Appointment and Reappointment Recommendations

Guangyu Wang requested members to confirm their willingness to continue serving on the TAC and discuss the potential need and candidates for new TAC members. Mas Dojiri, Rich Ambrose, John Dorsey, Phyllis Grifman, Karen Martin, Dan Pondella, and Eric Stein confirmed willingness to continue serving on the TAC upon reappointment by the Governing Board. Steve Bay reported he will not be continuing to serve on the TAC due to upcoming retirement.

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Members identified four areas of expertise that the Commission can benefit: environmental toxicology, oceanography and coastal processes, environmental engineering, and climate change. Steve Bay requested members individually solicit candidates with these scientific specialties and discuss at the next TAC meeting for consideration of appointment by the Governing Board.

Member comments followed on ad hoc experts and updating TAC operating guidelines.

6) Appointment of Chair and Vice-chair

Steve Bay introduced this item and asked interested members to volunteer as TAC Chair and Vice-chair. Dan Pondella was unanimously recommended for appointment as the TAC Chair. John Dorsey was unanimously recommended for appointment as the TAC Vice-chair.

7) Review Revised Monitoring Plan for the Ladera Park Stormwater Improvements Project Funded under Proposition 84

Guangyu Wang introduced this item and provided background on the Monitoring Plan previously approved by the TAC. Wang invited Emiko Innes to provide additional information and answer members' questions. Members recommended revising the Monitoring Plan to include:

- Nine events over three storm-seasons, collecting a variety of storm sizes as much as possible;
- Addition of oil and grease to the constituent list for Best Management Practices (BMP) effectiveness monitoring; and
- Report to the Commission upon completion of the three-year monitoring.

Member comments followed on BMP databases, standardizing monitoring for Safe Clean Water Program (Measure W) projects, and new stormwater engineer at Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP).

The meeting adjourned at 2:32 pm.

Attendance:

TAC Members:

Steve Bay (Chair)
Mas Dojiri (Vice-chair)
Rich Ambrose
John Dorsey
Phyllis Grifman
Karen Martin, via teleconference
Dan Pondella
Eric Stein

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Commission Staff:

Caitlin Gray
Guangyu Wang

Other Attendees:

Tom Ford (The Bay Foundation)
Karina Johnston (The Bay Foundation)
David Alderete (CSU Sacramento)
Emiko Innes (County of Los Angeles Department of Public Work), via teleconference
Shannon Eminhizer (MBC Aquatic Sciences)
Walter Lamb (Ballona Wetlands Land Trust)
Phil Markle (Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County)
Erica Yelensky (US EPA), via teleconference